

# Reuse of feeding syringes

Information for parents and carers whose child is tube-fed at home



Medicines



Feeding



Drawing Up



Flushing



Aspirating

## Which syringes will I use at home?

All syringes used to connect to a feeding tube are purple. In hospital all syringes are single-use only. The purple syringes supplied for home use are reusable for up to one week.

## How do I wash my child's syringes?

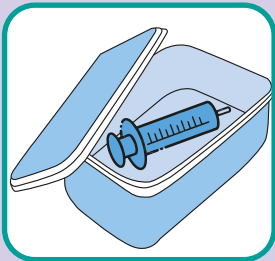
Clean your syringes as soon as possible after use to prevent the contents drying and sticking to the syringe.



- 1.** Separate the syringe and plunger and wash in warm soapy water.  
Replace the plunger and use a push / pull action until clean.



- 2.** Separate again and rinse thoroughly with cold tap water, ensuring there is no residue left in the syringe.



- 3. For children over one year**  
Let the syringes air dry, then store in a clean open box.

## Note on dishwashers

Most syringe manufacturers advise against using a dishwasher.

## Do I need to sterilise my child's syringes?

- For neonates and babies under one year equipment must be sterilised.
- Sterilising is not usually required for older children over one year unless they are fed further down into their gut (into their jejunum (the second part of the small intestine) via a jejunostomy or a nasojejunal tube).
- Place syringes into a cold steriliser solution. Follow manufacturer's instructions for the time required to sterilise. Please do not steam sterilise your syringes.
- If you have any questions, please ask your child's dietitian.

## Where do my syringes come from?

If your child is on a tube feed you will be supplied syringes via a delivery company along with feed and equipment. Speak with your child's dietitian or community nursing service if you have any questions about your delivery.

## How and when should I dispose of used syringes?

Used purple syringes can be disposed of in your normal household waste. You should dispose of syringes if:

- There is any sign of damage to the syringe or plunger seal.
- The dose markings have begun to rub off.
- The plunger becomes stiff to operate.
- You have been using the syringe for one week.



# Feedback

We appreciate and encourage feedback. If you need advice or are concerned about any aspect of care or treatment, please speak to a member of staff or contact:

- The Patients Advice and Liaison Service team at Nottingham City Hospital or Queen’s Medical Centre on:  
Telephone: **0800 183 0204** or **0800 052 1195**  
Email: **pals@nuh.nhs.uk**
- The Patient Experience Team at King’s Mill Hospital on:  
Telephone: **01623 672222**. Email: **sfh-tr.pet@nhs.net**
- Minicom: 0800 183 0204

Children’s Community Nurse: .....
Dietitian: .....
Other useful contact: .....

## Further sources of information

NHS Choices: [www.nhs.uk/conditions](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions)  
Our website: [www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk](http://www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk)

If you would like this information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call the Patient Experience Team at **King’s Mill Hospital** on 01623 672222 or email: sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net. Or you can email **Nottingham University Hospitals:** childrensreceptorship@nuh.nhs.uk

This document is intended for information purposes only and should not replace advice that your relevant health professional would give you. External websites may be referred to in specific cases. Any external websites are provided for your information and convenience. We cannot accept responsibility for the information found on them. If you require a full list of references (if relevant) for this leaflet, please email sfh-tr.patientinformation@nhs.net or telephone 01623 622515, extension 6927.

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